

HARD LINES.

A Stage Driver's Story.

As we stepped ashore from the 1 o'clock boat at a down-town ferry, homeward-bound, on Saturday morning, after a hard night's work at the dock, in the sultry heat of that scorching night, and were wishing that *Tan Sun* was published just about then in Alaska, or some equally cool locality, we found ourself walking side by side with a broad-shouldered, cheerful-looking man of five-and-thirty, or thereabouts.

"Mighty hot weather, sir," suggested our friend, in a neighborly way; "awful hard on noses, such dogs we are."

We stopped, and added that it was quite trying to humans beings.

"I believe you," said he. "In such times as these it's a relief to try to ride on a ferry boat; every breath of fresh air is worth a dollar."

The ice took broken, so we had to go some little distance up the street together, we pleasantly inquired what kept him out so late, when a conversation ensued which we give here or quite verbatim:

"He—Oh, I drive stage for a living."

"We—Pretty hot to be getting home, for a stage driver's nearly half-asleep now!"

"He—Na! I get over every mornin' about this time."

"We—Well, when do you get out then?"

"He—Oh, I start out with my stage at 6:15 in the mornin'."

"We—Twelve minutes after six! What time do you drive?"

"He—I drive on the — Ferry, — avenue and Forty—street line."

"We—How many hours do you say you work?"

"He—From four in the mornin' to midnight."

"We—What, and come all the way down town and across the river every night after that? You get up twice."

"He—Yes. You see, I ain't always free in New York. We used to losing to Paddy, who is a poor people live like rats. Everybody here has a little house room with his family but here, if you live on York island, you've got to pack up the top deck of some casual tenement house among all sorts o' folks. So I'd rather live over here where the old woman he bent o' comfortable like, even if I have to put up with some inconvieniences myself."

"We—Do you mean to say that you get home at this time every night, and reach the stage office by twelve minutes after six the same morning?"

"He—Yes, before that. I've got to be there by six to clean my stage out and be ready to start at 6:15. We—What time do you get for sleep?"

"He—About three hours."

"We—Why, man, you can't stand it. That work will kill you with so little rest."

"He—Well, I've been in it seventeen years."

"We—How can you endure such long hours, with so little sleep?"

"He—Well, I never wanted much sleep, and when I go to bed, I tell you I sleep hard."

"We—Do you never sleep yourself?"

"He—No, sir. The old woman, she gets up about half past four and makes some breakfast. Then she calls out. She's very good 'bout that, and I rigs up, takes a good wash and a bite, and am off by the 6 o'clock train."

"We—And what pay do you get for such long hours?"

"He—Todes' skid' a day."

"We—What's a dollar and a half a day? How on earth do you live?"

"He—Well, d'ye see, we couldn't live off that; but with what we makes it comes to about two dollars to twenty skid' a day. The bosses know us, but they won't pay wages, and we can't survive."

"We—You must want to get out of such a hard business?"

"He—Well, I do. But I've always been among horses, and I couldn't git along in any other business. I sometimes think I'd like to git a job to drive a truck over here. But then, I just no time to look up a place."

"We—Well, you have at least one day in the week rest—Sunday; then you sleep pretty late, don't you?"

"He—No, sir. I git up about 9 o'clock and have a good clean-up. If I had abed late, and bumbled about Sundays, as some 'em do, then I might not feel so bad if I hadn't been to bed at all. There, sir, I'm most lame. I live just round that corner, Good night."

With the cheerful, hard-working man a "good sight," we went home, wondering if some folks, who murmur at the harshness of their lot, might not gather consolation from THE STAGE DRIVER'S STORY.

Crime in New York: its Causes and Remedies.

This was the subject of a discourse delivered at the Broadway Tabernacle Sunday evening, by the Pastors of the Tabernacle, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Thompson, with the Rev. Dr. J. C. H. Smith, and others. The sermon was well received, and elicited a hearty response from the audience.

Afterwards, William H. Brewster, of the Pearl street, earnestly waited yesterday under a canopy in the building 42 Beckman street, and was injured in the spine. Taken home.... The man, called Agnew, was a member of the New York Legion, and had been sent to the Croton Aqueduct Department, in answer to an inquiry as to the cause of the damage in the saving of Third avenue from Beckman street, and was sent to the hospital.

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